

Nov 23/25 Rescued into the Kingdom of Light (Luke 23:33-43; Col 1:11-20)

Leader's Guide

1. Where do you most see the signs of the “domain of darkness” described in the sermon—either in the world around you or in your own patterns of thinking and living?

Invite examples from daily life, culture, or personal struggle. Try to avoid political or controversial topics. Encourage naming emotions that surface when confronting darkness.

2. The world often tells us, “Save yourself.” Which version of that message do you feel most often—avoid pain, protect your reputation, fulfil every desire, don’t show weakness?

Help your group members notice both external and internal pressures to conform to this message. Ask how these messages shape responses to stress, failure, or vulnerability.

3. Why do you think acknowledging our own guilt, limits, or weakness is so central to stepping into the kingdom of light? What makes that kind of honesty challenging?

Revisit the thief's words: “We are condemned justly... he doesn't deserve this.” Explore barriers: fear, shame, pride, self-protection. Keep the tone grace-filled: honesty is not about shame but about freedom. Encourage stories when God may have met your group members kindly in truth-telling.

4. The repentant thief “saw” Jesus differently even in the midst of darkness. What helps you “turn the dial” toward God’s kingdom when everything around you feels chaotic or loud?

Invite personal stories of clarity, peace, or God’s nearness. Remember to normalize the experience of feeling stuck or overwhelmed or not being able to sense God’s presence. You can explore practices that help retune the heart: Scripture, silence, community, confession, worship, serving.

5. Colossians says we have been transferred to the kingdom of the beloved Son. What does this “transfer of citizenship” look like in everyday life?

Encourage practical examples: relationships, habits, decisions, reactions to suffering. Contrast kingdom dynamics: trust vs. fear, forgiveness vs. self-protection, belonging vs. isolation. Reflect on the line: “In him all things hold together.”

6. Where might Jesus be inviting you to stop trying to “save yourself” and instead trust Him? How could that surrender bring greater freedom?

Help people name specific areas: control, reputation, productivity, bitterness, independence. Connect to the imagery of baptism: dying to self, rising with Christ. Keep the focus hopeful—surrender leads to new life. Ask if there’s a small step of trust they feel called to take this week.